



MONTGOMERY

TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2023

CHARTING A PATH IN 2023

At the end of last year, our township committee started a new, long-term strategic planning process that focuses on enhancing Montgomery as a premier township. Through this work, we are identifying goals based on feedback from residents, businesses and community partners. In collaboration with township employees, we have identified directional goals.

The first of these is preserving our position as a model of environmental stewardship. With over 8,000 acres in our community preserved as parks, open space or farmland, we have a rich history of ensuring future generations can enjoy what makes our township unique. As



part of this effort, we are also working to prepare for natural disasters after seeing how an event like Hurricane Ida can impact our historic sites and open spaces.

Better understanding and supporting how Montgomery moves is also at the forefront of our work. Somerset County is currently working through a transportation plan that will guide the next 20 years of upgrades and resource allocation. We encourage all residents to stay up-to-date on progress and advocate for our township by visiting [SomersetCounty.MySocialPinpoint.com](https://www.somersetcountynj.gov/MySocialPinpoint.com).

We hope this work will help get people out of cars and encourage safe travel around our community on foot and by bike.

Finally, we are committed to

making prudent financial decisions that preserve your tax dollars. Last year, we secured nearly \$2 million in grants from county, state and private sources. Throughout the year, our departments will continue looking for ways to bring in outside sources of revenue, helping us deliver even greater value for Montgomery residents.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming township meeting or event in our beautiful new municipal center. ■

Mayor Devra Keenan**Deputy Mayor Neena Singh****Vincent Barragan****Patricia Taylor Todd****Dennis Ahn**



NEW SECURE PRESCRIPTION DROP BOX FOR UNNEEDED MEDS IN MONTGOMERY

Montgomery’s “Project Medicine Drop” is now open outside the police department doors in the municipal center and is accepting unused, excess or expired prescription medications. Operated in collaboration with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, the secure box is the safest method for disposing of unneeded medications.

The ongoing nationwide epidemic of opiate and heroin abuse is fueled by the abuse of prescription painkillers. This new community service can help eliminate a supply of drugs from homes, helping protect families.

“Project Medicine Drop is a natural addition in our commitment to help improve the public safety and quality of life in Montgomery

Township,” said Captain and Director of Police Silvio Bet. “It will encourage our residents to be fully aware of the potential for abuse presented by otherwise beneficial medications.”

Medications can be dropped off anytime the main lobby is open, including when the library is open. Additional arrangements can be made by contacting the police department, if needed. It is recommended that pills be kept in the original container with labels removed or all contact and prescription information covered by a permanent marker. Liquid medications and syringes are not accepted.

“I encourage everyone to go through their medicine cabinets and closets to find old prescriptions you don’t need anymore,” said Mayor Devra Keenan. “Together, we can keep these drugs from falling into the wrong hands and protect our families.” ■



A NOTE ABOUT SUPPLEMENTAL TAX BILLS

In February, you received a supplemental tax bill specifically for the funding of capital improvements and operational expenses for full-day kindergarten. This bill has an extended grace period until April 1. Tax bills for the second quarter will include a supplemental bill as well, with a due date of May 1 and 10-day grace period. Starting with the 2023 3rd quarter bill, operational expenses will be included, but in the regular bill

and not as a supplemental bill.

This funding was approved by voters during the November 8, 2022 election. For information regarding the use of these funds, please contact the School District Superintendent, Mary E. McLoughlin at mmcloughlin@mtsd.us. ■

DO YOU KNOW HOW YOUR TAXES ARE SPLIT UP?

THE TOWNSHIP COLLECTS TAXES, BUT SPLITS THEM UP BASED ON DECISIONS MADE BY OTHER ELECTED BODIES

School District	68.67%
Municipality	13.57%
County	12.05%
County Library	1.73%
Fire Districts	1.57%
Municipal Open Space	1.24%
County Open Space	1.17%

YOUR LITTER! YOUR STORMDRAIN! YOUR WATER!



www.cleanwaternj.org

KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN

Last year, local rivers had some of the worst algal blooms in recent history. Pollution was a contributing factor that led to restrictions on how our community could enjoy the outdoors. Together, we can keep harmful chemicals out of natural waterways. Here are tips for the most common household challenges:

- **Check** your car for leaks and make repairs. Take used motor oil or antifreeze for recycling to Montgomery's Container Facility or hold onto it until Somerset County's Household Hazardous Waste Days. Do not dump these items down storm drains.
- **Clean** up after your pets and prevent contamination of surface water from harmful nutrients and pathogens found in pet waste.
- **Follow** the directions on fertilizer closely, avoiding over-application and run-off. Keep your money from washing into the streams by not applying before it rains.
- **Dispose** of yard waste properly. Don't dump it into marshes, forested wetlands or near streams. Compost or ask your lawn service to remove.
- **Direct** downspouts from gutters away from paved surfaces where they carry oil and other chemicals into storm drains.
- **Connect** your laundry water discharge to the sewer line or septic as required by building code.
- **Go** to a car wash that recycles and uses treated water. When washing at home, use a biodegradable detergent.

For more information, visit CleanWaterNJ.org. ■



THE SENIOR BUS IS BACK!

PICK UPS IN THE
MORNING. DEPARTS
SENIOR CENTER
AT 2 P.M.

CALL (609) 466-1054
TO RESERVE A SEAT.

(PRIORITY GIVEN TO
THOSE EATING LUNCH AT
THE SENIOR CENTER.)

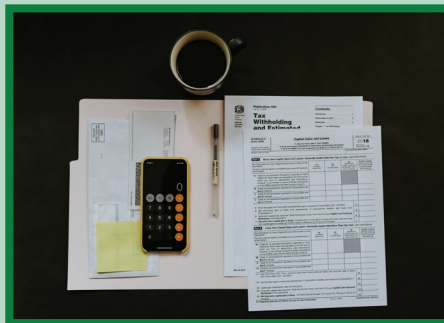




Community volunteer and mental health advocate Lori Huff was recognized as 2022 Somerset County Volunteer of the Year by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. As chair of our Municipal Alliance/Youth Services Commission, she has been instrumental in bringing valuable programming to Montgomery.

CONGRATULATIONS LORI HUFF

TAX HELP AVAILABLE

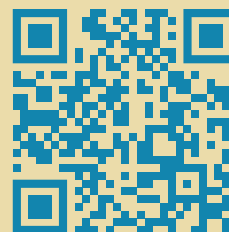


Free tax-counseling services are available for older adults, residents with disabilities and lower-income residents at Otto Kaufman Community Center.

Call (908) 541-5710 to schedule an appointment!

SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

Get ready for Montgomery Parks and Recreation Summer Camp registration! We're looking forward to another summer of making memories. A complete guide will be released in the coming weeks.



COUNSELORS NEEDED - APPLICATIONS OPEN SOON

COFFEE WITH A COP



At the end of January, our police officers held another "Coffee with a Cop". Members of our township were invited to meet officers and discuss working together for public safety.

LET'S CONNECT MONTGOMERY!



SIGN UP FOR THE eBULLETIN

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Municipal Offices	(908) 359-8211
Non-Emergency Police	(908) 874-3333
Parks & Recreation	(609) 466-3023
Senior Center & Food Pantry	(609) 466-0846
Department of Public Works	(908) 874-3144